

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 00321 01 OF 02 071408Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05  
IO-13 PC-01 EA-07 /082 W  
-----071424Z 103693 /43

R 071127Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0459  
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
USCINCPAC HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 0321

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG  
SUBJ: INDO-BANGLADESH RELATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 18151 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MEA OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO TAKE A RELAXED  
ATTITUDE TOWARD RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH AND PROFESS  
NOT TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT GENERAL ZIA'S VISIT TO  
PEKING. THEY ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE  
FARAKKA TALKS NEXT WEEK BUT DOWNPLAY THE SIGNIFICANCE  
OF BORDER INCIDENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CHAGE JANUARY 6,  
G. PARTHASARATHI, CHAIRMAN OF THE MEA'S POLICY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE, SAID THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY  
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 00321 01 OF 02 071408Z

THE LAST ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS ON FARAKKA. THE BANG-  
LADESHI NEGOTIATING POSITION, HE SAID HAD IMPROVED  
AS HAD THE ATMOSPHERE, AND HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT AGREE-  
MENT MIGHT BE REACHED IN THE NEXT SESSION. PARATHA-  
SARATHI SAID THAT HE SAW NOTHING AS YET IN GENERAL  
ZIAUR RAHMAN'S VISIT TO PEKING THAT WOULD INTERFERE  
WITH THE COMING TALKS. OF COURSE, HE ADDED, HE HAD

NOT SEEN THE COMMUNIQUE. HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY PUBLIC MENTION OF FARAKKA DURING THE VISIT ALTHOUGH, HE SAID UNDOUBTEDLY THERE HAD BEEN PRIVATE MENTION OF IT. PARATHSARATHI COMMENTED THAT IN DACCA THERE HAS BEEN SOME MENTION OF CHINESE ADMIRATION FOR THE WAY IN WHICH THE BANGLADESHIS HAVE STOOD UP TO FOREIGN PRESSURES. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THIS DID NOT BOTHER HIM BECAUSE HE UNDERSTOOD THE NECESSITIES FOR SUCH COMMENT IN DACCA.

2. 2. A. K. DAMODARAN, JOINT SECRETARY FOR POLICY PLANNING AND REVIEW, HAS ALSO TOLD US THAT INDIA HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH ZIA'S TRIP TO PEKING. DAMODARAN TOLD ALF BERGESEN, VISITING DACCA DCM, AND THE POLCOUNSELORE JANUARY 5 THAT THE LANGUAGE DURING THE PEKING VISIT ON HEGEMONISM AND EXPANSIONISM HAD NOT SURPRISED THE INDIANS WHO IN FACT HAD EXPECTED THE CHINESE TO FLATLY SUPPORT BANGLADESH ON ISSUES RELATING TO INDIA. DAMODARAN THOUGHT THE CHINESE WERE BEING VERY CAREFUL WITHIN BANGLADESH AT PRESENT AND HAD NO CURRENT INTENTION OF ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT BANGLADESH'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN A WAY WHICH WOULD CONCERN INDIA. BURMA, HE SAID, WAS MORE OF A FOCUS FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES BY THE CHINESE. HOWEVER, DAMODARAN SAID, THE INDIANS OVER THE LONG TERM WOULD BE WATCHING CHINESE ACTIVITIES IN BANGLADESH CAREFULLY.

3. DAMODARAN SAID THAT THE INDIANS WERE PLEASED BY THE FIRYUBIN VISIT TO DACCA. HE ALSO SAID CATEGORICALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 00321 01 OF 02 071408Z

THAT INDIA HAD NO PROBLEM WITH US RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH (PARTHASARATHI ECHOED THIS VIEW) AND THOUGHT THAT AS FAR AS THE GOI WAS CONCERNED, THE UNITED STATES HAD PLAYED A POSITIVE ROLE WITH BANGLADESH. ACCORDING TO DAMODARAN, THE PRIMARY INDIAN INTEREST IS THAT THE BANGLADESHIS' SENSE OF CONFIDENCE SHOULD INCREASE AND THEIR FEELING OF NORMALITY BE STRENGTHENED. HE THOUGHT THAT BANGLADESH WAS MOVING BACK TOWARD THE PAKISTANI VIEW OF FOREIGN POLICY, WITH WHICH INDIA HAS NO SERIOUS PROBLEM, I.E., THE MAINTENANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS, THE CHINESE AND THE AMERICANS. OF COURSE, DAMODARAN SAID, INDIA WOULD PREFER THAT BANGLADESHI SUSPICIONS OF ITS BING INDIAN NEIGHBOR BE REMOVED BUT KNEW REALISTICALLY THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH SUCH SUSPICIONS.

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00321 02 OF 02 071413Z

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEKTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 0321

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THE RAMIFICATIONS WOULD BE MINIMIZED, HOWEVER, IF BANGLADESH CONSIDERED THAT ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WERE GOOD. ECHOING THE VIEW OF THE JOINT SECRETARY FOR BANGLADESH (REFTEL) DAMODARAN SAID THAT THE INDIANS HAD MADE A NUMBER OF SERIOUS MISTAKES IN DEALING WITH THE BDG OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, PARTICULARLY IN FAILING TO BE SUFFICIENTLY GENEROUS AND LARGE MINDED ON ECONOMIC ISSUES. DAMODARAN BLAMED HE HARD-MINDED ATTITUDES ON THE GOI'S ECONOMIC MINISTRIES.

4. REGARDING THE DACCA PRESS REPORT THAT THE CHIEFS OF THE BSF AND THE BANGLADESH RIFLES WOULD MEET SHORTLY, PARTHASANATHI TOLD THE CHARGE THAT THERE WOULD BE SUCH A MEETING BUT THAT THE INDIANS HAD NOT YET AGREED UPON A DATE. HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT GOOD  
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 00321 02 OF 02 071413Z

THAT THE BANGLADESHIS HAD PUBLISHED THE REPORT JUST BEFORE THE FARAKKA TALKS BECAUSE IT WAS NOT HELPFUL TO LINK THE TWO PROBLEMS. THERE WAS MUCH INSURGENCY

IN MYEMNSINGH DISTRICT, PARTHASARATHI SAID, BUT STORIES ABOUT CAMPS AND TRAINING IN INDIA WERE "SO MUCH BUNK." THE BANGLADESHIS, HE SAID, TALK OF ATTACKS BUT THE NUMBER OF THOSE THEY SPEAK OF IS QUITE SMALL. FOR HIS PART DAMODARAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT QADER SIDDIQUI FORCES MIGHT STILL BE MOVING BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE BORDER BUT, HE SAID, THE BORDER WAS DIFFICULT TO CONTROL, AND HE PROFESSED NOT TO BE SUFFICIENTLY BRIEFED TO COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF MAINTAINING A STRICT CORDON TO PREVENT CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT.

5. IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THESE VIEWS ON THE BORDER INCIDENTS, THE BANGLADESHI DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, REZAUL KARIM, TOLB BERGESEN MAND EMBOFF JANUARY 5 THAT THE BDG HAD LODGED ANOTHER STRONG PROTEST WITH THE GOI THE PREVIOUS WEEK. KARIM SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANOTHER BORDER ATTACK RECENTLY IN WHICH THE BSF WAS INVOLVED AND THE ATTACKERS LEFT BEHIND THE BODIES OF TWO OF THEIR NUMBER. KARIM DID NOT INDICATE IF THE BODIES WERE THOSE OF BSF OR "MISCREANTS" BUT SAID THAT THE INCIDENT WAS SERIOUS ENOUGH TO PROMPT A STRONGLY WORDED NOTE. KARIM ALSO CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF JANUARY 6 THAT NO DATE HAS BEEN SET YET FOR BORDER TALKS.  
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## Message Attributes

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